

**House File 2187 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2187  
BY SHOMSHOR

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the accreditation of community colleges.  
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 260C.47, subsection 1, unnumbered  
2 paragraph 1, Code 2009, is amended to read as follows:

3 The state board ~~of education~~ shall establish by rule an  
4 accreditation process for community college programs ~~by July~~  
5 ~~1, 1997~~. The process shall be jointly developed and agreed  
6 upon by the department of education and the community colleges.  
7 The state accreditation process shall be integrated with  
8 the accreditation process of the north central association  
9 of colleges and schools, including the evaluation cycle,  
10 ~~the self-study process,~~ and the criteria for evaluation,  
11 ~~which shall incorporate the standards for community colleges~~  
12 ~~developed under section 260C.48; and shall identify and make~~  
13 ~~provision for the needs of the state that are not met by the~~  
14 ~~association's accreditation process. For the academic year~~  
15 ~~commencing July 1, 1998, and in succeeding school years, the~~  
16 ~~department of education shall use a two-component process for~~  
17 ~~the continued accreditation of community college programs.~~  
18 ~~Beginning July 1, 2006, the~~ The state accreditation process  
19 shall incorporate the standards developed pursuant to section  
20 260C.48, subsection 4 and shall include but not be limited to  
21 procedures for correcting deficiencies, appropriate due process  
22 procedures including a hearing, consequences for failure to  
23 meet accreditation standards, notification procedures, and a  
24 timeline for the process. Action taken by the state board  
25 pursuant to this section for failure to meet accreditation  
26 standards is final agency action for purposes of chapter 17A.

27 Sec. 2. Section 260C.47, subsection 1, paragraphs a, b, and  
28 c, Code 2009, are amended by striking the paragraphs.

29 Sec. 3. Section 260C.47, subsections 2 through 7, Code 2009,  
30 are amended by striking the subsections.

31 Sec. 4. Section 260C.48, subsection 1, unnumbered paragraph  
32 1, Code 2009, is amended to read as follows:

33 The state board shall develop standards and adopt rules  
34 ~~for the accreditation of community college~~ instructors  
35 and programs. Except as provided in subsection 4, the

1 standards and rules developed and adopted shall not duplicate  
2 rules adopted for the accreditation process established  
3 pursuant to section 260C.47. The department shall monitor  
4 and evaluate the standards through a process jointly  
5 developed and agreed upon by the department and the community  
6 colleges. Except as provided in this subsection and subsection  
7 4, standards developed shall be general in nature so as to  
8 apply to more than one specific program of instruction. With  
9 regard to community college-employed instructors, the standards  
10 adopted shall at a minimum require that community college  
11 instructors who are under contract for at least half-time or  
12 more, and by July 1, 2011, all instructors, meet the following  
13 requirements:

14 EXPLANATION

15 This bill relates to the accreditation process for community  
16 colleges by eliminating the two-component process the state  
17 board of education is required to administer, requiring the  
18 state board to adopt rules establishing an accreditation  
19 process that is integrated with the accreditation process of  
20 the north central association of colleges and schools, and  
21 making the standards for community college instructors and  
22 programs established by the state board a process separate from  
23 that of the accreditation process.

24 Under the current state accreditation process, the standards  
25 for instructors and programs must be incorporated, and the  
26 process must identify and make provision for the needs of the  
27 state that are not met by the association's accreditation  
28 process. An accreditation team reviews data submitted by a  
29 community college, visits the community college, determines  
30 whether the standards for a program have been met, and  
31 reports its recommendations to the director of the department  
32 of education and to the state board. If the state board  
33 determines that a community college program does not meet  
34 accreditation standards, the director, in cooperation with  
35 the community college board, establishes a corrective plan

1 and a deadline date for correction of the deficiencies.  
2 Current Code language also provides for another visit by the  
3 accreditation team, potential consequences for failure to  
4 correct deficiencies, due process, and notification procedures.  
5 The bill directs the state board to determine and establish the  
6 process and procedures by rule.

7 The bill requires the department to monitor and evaluate  
8 the standards for community college instructors and programs  
9 through a process developed and agreed upon by the department  
10 and the community colleges.